

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 is submitted herewith. This paper constitutes a submission under 37 CFR 1.114(c). Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed August 14, 2006 is respectfully requested. A Request for a One-Month Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is submitted herewith, along with the fee prescribed by 37 CFR 1.17(a)(2). The response is therefore timely.

Claims 1-40 were examined. Claims 1-7, 11-20, 24-29, 33-36, 38, and 40 were rejected. Claims 8-10, 21-23, 30-32, 37, and 39 were objected to as depending from rejected claims, but were held to define allowable subject matter.

The application has been amended by cancelling claims 1-40 and replacing them with new claims 41-61. New claims 41, 45, 52, 57, and 60 present what is understood to be the patentable subject matter of claims 8, 21, 30, 37, and 39, respectively, in independent form. Each of claims 42-44, 46-51, 53-56, 58, 59, and 61 depends from one of the new independent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 41, 45, 52, 57, and 60, are allowable, along with the claims depending therefrom.

The amendment set forth above is submitted to expedite the application to issue, and without prejudice to applicant's right to present the subject matter of the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that claims 41-61 are allowable over the art of record. Passage of the application to issue is therefore earnestly solicited.

Should there be any further issues to address in the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution of the application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,



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